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Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2006 regular session

(New York, 19-27 January 2006)

Summary

At its 2006 regular session, from 19 to 27 January 2006, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 144 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from its 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 97 applications for consultative status, deferred 39 organizations for further consideration at a later date, recommended not to grant consultative status to three organizations and to close consideration of two organizations. The Committee had also before it three requests for reclassification of consultative status, of which it recommended two. In addition, it reviewed 52 quadrennial reports. The Committee heard seven representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The present report contains six draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 97 non-governmental organizations;

(b) Reclassify two non-governmental organizations;

(c) Note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 42 organizations;

(d) Decide to close consideration of the applications of two non-governmental organizations.

By draft decision II, the Council would decide not to grant consultative status to the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

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By draft decision III the Council would decide not to grant consultative status to the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians.

By draft decision IV, the Council would decide not to grant consultative status to the non-governmental organization People in Need.

By draft decision V, the Council would decide to withdraw the status of the Islamic African Relief Agency.

By draft decision VI, the Council would take note of the present report.

The present report also contains a statement by the Chairperson of the Committee brought to the attention of the Council.

The Chairperson made a statement on the reinstatement of status of the organization Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru".

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following non-governmental organizations:

Special consultative status

Aahung

Agence d'aide à la cooperation technique et au développement

All Africa Farmers Network

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies

Architectes de l'urgence

Association des parlementaires tunisiens

Association femmes enfants et developpement

Association "for Sustainable Human Development"

Association of Former Diplomats of China

Association génération recherche action et formation pour l'environnement

Association of Language Testers in Europe

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

Big Brothers Big Sisters International

Biopolitics International Organization

Building and Social Housing Foundation

Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid

Consortium d'appui aux actions pour la promotion et le developpement de l'Afrique

Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia

Centre d'études pour réaliser l'espoir de l'enfant du désert

Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology

Cercle de l'auto-promotion et de l'excellence

Child Care Consortium

China International Institute of Multinational Corporations

China Association for International Science and Technology Corporation

Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy

Conectas Direitos Humanos

Confedération Internationale de la Bijonterie, Joaillerie, Orfévrerie des Dramantes, Perles et Pierres

DiploFoundation

Eco-Accord Center for Environment and Sustainable Development

Eco-ecolo

Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

Egyptian Organizations for Human Rights

European Federation for Transport and Environment

Foster Care Organization International

Fundación Alvaralice

Fundación Teleton México

Gaia mater

Geneva Call

Global Village for Rehabilitation and Development

Group 484

Group of 78

Groupe Pivot-Droit et Citoyenneté des Femmes

Half the Sky Foundation

Imamia Medics International

Ingénieurs du monde

Institut de la gestion déléguée

Institut de politique familiale

Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia

Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

International Association for Humanitarian Medicine Brock Chisholm

International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement

International Association for Women's Mental Health

International Coastal and Ocean Organization

International Education for Peace Institute

International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Italian Association for Aid to Children

Korean Progressive Network 'Jinbonet'

Le forum pour l'integration des migrants

Leonard Cheshire Foundation, the

Lighthouse International

Maxim Institute

Mercury Institute

Movimiento Manuela Ramos

National Center for State Courts

National Environmental Trust

National Foundation for Women Legislators

National Rural Support Programme

Network of Ugandan Researchers and Research Users World Children's Relief and Volunteer

New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties

Political and Ethical Knowledge on Economic Activities

Pride Youth Programs

Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini

Réseau d'information des aînées et aînés du Quebec

Rits — Rede de Informações para o Terceiro Setor

Rozan

Seniors Españoles para la Cooperación Técnica

Sinha Institute Of Medical Science and Technology

Society for Initiatives in Rural Development and Environmental Protection

To Love Children Educational Foundation International Inc.

Traditions pour demain

Ubuntu Forum

United Nations Association of the United States of America Inc.

Urban Justice Center

Vikas Samiti

Vital Voices Global Partnership

Women's Right to Education Programme

Women's Welfare Center

World for World Organization

Women's Environmental Development and Training

World Children's Relief and Volunteer

Roster

International Cost Engineering Council

International Partnership for Microbicides, Inc.

International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

International Police Commission

International Society of Addiction Medicine

International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems

World Council of Muslim Communities, Inc.

(b) To reclassify one non-governmental organization from special consultative status to general consultative status:

Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

(c) To reclassify one organization from roster to special consultative status:

World ORT Union

(d) Not to reclassify one organization

Armenian Relief Society

(e) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following organizations (years of reporting in parentheses):

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (2001-2004)

United for Intercultural Action (2001-2004)

Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (2001-2004)

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America (2001-2004)

International Council on Management of Population Programmes (2001-2004)

International Shinto Foundation (2001-2004)

Jaime Guzman Errazuriz Foundation (2001-2004)

International Women's Rights Action Watch (2001-2004)

Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Association (2001-2004)

Canadian Environmental Network (2001-2004)

Centre Africain de récherche interdisciplinaire (2001-2004)

Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (2001-2004)

Fundacion de Ayuda Contra la Drogadiccion (2001-2004)

American Jewish Committee (2001-2004)

Global Rights (formerly known as: international human rights law group) (2001-2004)

Greek Council for Refugees (2001-2004)

Rotary International (2001-2004)

Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2001-2004)

American Association of Jurists (2001-2004)

Center for Migration Studies of New York (2001-2004)

Coalition against Trafficking in Women (2001-2004)

League of Women Voters of the United States (2001-2004)

Susila Dharma International Association (2001-2004)

Association of the Bar of the City of New York (2001-2004)

Equality Now (2001-2004)

International Federation for Home Economics (2001-2004)

Pathway to Peace (2001-2004)

Peace Child International (2001-2004)

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (2001-2004)

International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples (Mouvement international pour l'union fraternelle entre les races et les peuples) (2001-2004)

Unitarian Universalist Association (2001-2004)

Association culturelle d'aide a la promotion éducative et sociale (2001-2004)

Elizabeth Seton Federation (2001-2004)

European Law Students Association (2001-2004)

Family Care International (2001-2004)

Transnational Radical Party (1999-2002)

International Press Institute (1997-2000)

Islamic Relief (1997-2000)

Sociologists for Women in Society (1999-2002)

International Muslim Women's Union (2000-2003)

Association of United Families International (1999-2002)

World Trade Center Association (1997-2000)

(f) To note that the Committee decided to close consideration of the request for consultative status made by the following organizations:

Women and Child Development Organization

World Assembly of Muslim Youth

Draft decision II
Application of the International Lesbian and Gay Association

The Economic and Social Council decides not to grant consultative status to the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

Draft decision III
Application of the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians

The Economic and Social Council decides not to grant consultative status to the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians.

Draft decision IV
Application of the non-governmental organization People in Need

The Economic and Social Council decides not to grant consultative status to the organization People in Need.

Draft decision V
Withdrawal of status of the Islamic African Relief Agency

The Economic and Social Council decides to withdraw the status of the Islamic African Relief Agency.

Draft decision VI
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2006 regular session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2006 regular session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on the reinstatement of status of the organization Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"

2. The Chairperson's statement on the reinstatement of status of the organization Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru":

> "The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations takes note and acknowledges the fact that the one year of suspension of the organization, Indian Movement 'Tupaj Amaru' came to an end on 23 July 2005".

II. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification

3. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 8th and 10th to 12th meetings, held from 19 to 27 January 2006. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2006/R.2 and Add. 1-22) and also one compilation of applications for consultative status deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2006/CRP.1).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

4. The Committee considered item 3 (a) of its agenda. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee, contained in document E/C.2/2006/CRP.1, at its 6th to 8th and 12th meetings, on 23, 24 and 27 January 2006.

Requests for consultative status

Applications recommended

5. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to 10 organizations whose applications had been deferred from previous sessions (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

World Council of Muslim Communities, Inc.

Vikas Samiti

Fundación Teletón México

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement

Pride Youth Programs

International Police Commission

International Society of Addiction Medicine

Political and Ethical Knowledge on Economic Activities

China Association for International Science and Technology Cooperation

BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

6. At its 8th meeting, on 24 January, the Committee decided to recommend special consultative status to the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights. The representatives of Germany, France and the United States of America disassociated themselves from the consensus. They were of the view that while the organization was doing important work on the issue of Palestinian

refugees, a number of serious concerns remained, including clarity on the organization's position on equating Zionism with racism.

7. The representative of Germany stated that he had serious concerns about organizations that had been involved in an attempt, in 2001, to reinstate General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) equating Zionism with racism. Although the representative of the organization had distanced BADIL from the call for reinstatement of that resolution, he would have preferred an opportunity to obtain clarity on the issue.

8. The representative of France stated that BADIL was doing a good job on the ground. However, the fact that the organization did not unequivocally reject the equation of Zionism with racism prevented France from associating with consensus. France would follow closely the position of BADIL on this subject in the future.

9. The Committee heard the representative of the organization, who underlined that it worked in close collaboration with a number of Jewish organizations, some of which had sent letters in support of its application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

10. The Sudan supported the work of the organization.

11. Speaking as an observer delegation, the representative of Palestine stated that BADIL provided relevant analysis and information on Palestinian refugees, its work and analysis being based on international law, in line with the provisions of resolution 1996/31 and relevant to the work of the Economic and Social Council.

12. The representative of Israel, speaking as an Observer State, believed that the organization was "aggressive and intolerant". It had used anti-Semitic language in the past, a matter which needed to be addressed by the Committee in its communications with the organization. BADIL had openly supported terrorism and had given contradictory statements when asked about its views on the right of the Jewish people to self-determination.

Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

13. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee during its 2006 regular session:

Human Rights International Alliance

Kashmiri American Council

Mountain Women Development Organization

International Centre for Peace Studies

American Conservative Union

World Sindhi Institute

International Crisis Group

Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace

Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum

Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses

Stree Atyachar Virodhi Parishad

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Institute

Social Alert

Angel Foundation

AIDS Action

Sahara for Life Trust

Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar

New Millennium Peace Foundation

Center for Human Rights and Environment

Latina and Latino Critical Race Theory (LatCrit)

Association Wadelbarka pour la prosperite des familles Mauritaniennes

Credo-Action

Mental Disability Rights International

Application not recommended

14. Also at its 8th meeting, on 24 January, the Committee considered the request for consultative status of an organization based in the Czech Republic, People in Need, deferred from the previous session of the Committee.

15. The Permanent Representative of Cuba stated that the organization had lied in the information provided to the Committee. He stated that the organization was a front for the Czech Government that was used against other countries, including his own. He highlighted that according to the organization's application, its website, its statutes and its official registry, it was founded by Czech Television, a state-owned institution, and was established as the legal successor of an entity attached to Czech Television. He explained that the Director of the People in Need Foundation is the Czech Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tomas Pojar, an official who maintains tight links with groups in Miami that promote subversion in Cuba. He stated that the organization carries out missions for the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that its executive bodies are named by Czech Television. In addition, the organization uses Radio Prague, the official Government broadcasting company, to promote a "change of regime" in Cuba.

16. The Permanent Representative of Cuba explained that the organization People in Need receives instructions and carries out anti-Cuban missions financed by the United States State Department, using the terrorist ex-CIA agent of Cuban origin, Frank Calzon, ex-member of the Abdala and Alpha 66, the killers of dozens of Cuban civilians and an ex-directive of the Fundación Nacional Cubano Americana (CANF), the financer of deadly terrorist attacks against tourist installations in Cuba in 1997. The organization also sponsored terrorists like Sixto Reynaldo Aquit Manrique, who was prosecuted in Cuba and the United States, where he was condemned to five years in prison in 1994 for attempting to burn down a store in Florida filled with donations from religious organizations destined to be sent to

Cuba. It was stated that the organization receives millions of euros from the Czech Government and American institutions, namely the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the National Endowment for Democracy, and that it has been used to illegally send material and money to mercenaries in Cuba, financed by the United States and the Czech Government, in order to overthrow the Cuban constitutional order. In addition, during the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, in spite of not having consultative status, People in Need organized a parallel anti-Cuban event, calling on people of Cuban origin with a terrorist background, among them Eduardo Pérez, who verbally attacked a Cuban diplomat in the Palais des Nations.

17. He requested the Committee not to recommend the granting of status to the organization. The representative of the Sudan supported the request made by Cuba.

18. The representative of the Czech Republic, speaking as an Observer State, denied all the allegations put forward by the Cuban Ambassador. She informed the Committee that the organization was doing effective and valuable humanitarian and development work in various parts of the world. She said that the organization had evolved from a small group of volunteers to a highly efficient international organization that operated in over 30 countries, including in regions affected by conflict and natural disasters. In its activities, the organization was promoting good governance, democracy and gender equality.

19. The representative of the United States called the allegations made by the Cuban delegation unfounded, and dismissed responding to them due to their obvious political nature rather than their factual content.

20. The representative of the United States proposed an adjournment of debate under rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

21. Statements in favour of the motion were made by the representatives of Romania and the United States. Statements were made against the motion by the representatives of Cuba and Zimbabwe.

22. Pursuant to rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the motion of the representative of the United States to postpone the debate on the item under consideration was put to a vote.

23. The Committee rejected the proposal made by the United States by a roll call vote of 5 in favour to 8 against, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Chile, France, Germany, Romania, United States of America.

Against:

China, Colombia, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

India, Peru, Pakistan, Turkey.

24. The Committee then proceeded to a vote on the proposal of the representative of Cuba to recommend not granting status to the organization.

General statements before the vote

25. General statements before the vote were made by the representative of Cuba and France. In his statement, the representative of Cuba emphasized that the organization had lied about its activities and operated under the guidance of the Czech Government. He would reject the application.

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

26. Statements in explanation of the vote before the vote were made by the representatives of the United States, Germany and France. The representative of France, supported by Germany, Romania and the United States, stated that he had not found any information on the website of the organization that supported Cuba's criticism. He regretted the misdemeanour against the rules and procedures of the Committee by the Cuban delegation. Cuba had presented information that was not on file and had taken the Committee members by surprise. The Committee should, therefore, give fair treatment to the organization and give it time to respond to the accusations made by Cuba.

27. The proposal made by Cuba was carried by a roll call vote of 9 in favour to 4 against, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Senegal, Sudan, Russian Federation, Zimbabwe

Against:

France, Germany, Romania, United States of America

Abstaining:

Chile, Pakistan, Peru, Turkey

Statements in explanation of vote after the vote

28. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of China.

General statement after the vote

29. The representative of Cuba stated that the Committee's decision was in total compliance with the principles stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, which guides the work of the Committee.

Applications closed

30. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 23 and 24 January, the Committee decided to close consideration of the applications of the Women and Child Development Organization and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth.

31. The representative of Pakistan was of the view that the Committee should close consideration of applications of organizations that had not responded to questions posed by the Committee for two years.

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

32. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, new applications for consultative status, contained in documents E/C.2/2006/R.2 and Add. 1-22 at its 1st to 6th, 8th, 11th and 12th meetings, held from 19 to 24 and on 26 and 27 January 2006.

1. New applications for consultative status

Applications recommended

33. The Committee recommended that consultative status with the Council be granted to 97 organizations, which had submitted new applications (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

34. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the applications of the following 15 organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee at its 2006 regular session:

Youth Empowerment Alliance Inc.

Nonviolent Peaceforce, Inc.

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII

Southern Organizing Cooperative

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

Conflict Management Group

Tchad agit pour l'environnement

Tides Center

Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions

Population Services International

Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

International Organization for Peace, Care and Relief

Asociacion Civil Consorcio Desarrollo y Justicia

Ma Qualcuno Pensi ad Abele

Africa Action

Applications not recommended

International Lesbian and Gay Association

35. The Committee considered the application of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, an international organization based in Belgium, at its 3rd and 5th meetings, on 20 and 23 January.

36. The organization, which was placed on the Roster in 1993, had been suspended for three years in 1994. In 2000, it was requested to submit a new application by the Committee, which was to be reviewed at the next session of the Committee. At its 2001 resumed session, the Committee decided not to recommend the organization for consultative status.

37. At its 5th meeting, on 23 January 2006, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, supported by the Sudan, said that he believed that the answers provided by the organization were not satisfactory. He recalled the circumstances in which this organization lost its consultative status just after one year after it was granted and also the fact that it was not accredited to the World Conference on Racism. He requested that a decision on the organization be taken at the meeting to recommend not to grant consultative status to the organization.

38. The representative of Germany proposed adjournment of debate under rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

39. Pursuant to rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the motion to adjournment of debate on the proposal under consideration was put to a vote.

40. Statements in favour of the motion were made by the representatives of Germany and France. Statements against the motion were made by the representatives of Cuba and Senegal.

41. The representative of Germany, supported by the representative of France, stated that his delegation was confronted with a situation that was unprecedented during its tenure on this Committee. An organization had presented a new application for consultative status and the very first time it reached the floor of the Committee, some delegations demanded its immediate rejection. The organization was denied any further opportunity to respond to the voiced concerns. The organization was singled out in such a manner because it was opposed to discrimination based on sexual orientation. This controversy was not about paedophilia. Germany would be the first to withdraw support for the application if the organization supported paedophilia. Acts of paedophilia were a criminal offence in all member States of the European Union and subject to severe penalties. The rejection of this application would set a damaging precedent for the Committee. He urged all members of the Committee to restore the minimum of trust and fairness that had prevailed in the Committee and that was sorely needed if the Committee was to continue its work in the way that the outside world expected of its members, by supporting the motion.

42. The delegation of Cuba explained that Cuba condemned all forms of discrimination, including by sexual orientation, and that the struggle against this kind of discrimination has attained its own space in the United Nations. He stressed that Cuba did not oppose the first request of the International Lesbian and Gay

Association to obtain consultative status and that his preference was for listening to the organization.

43. The delegation of Pakistan made a statement not to prolong the debate since there was specific request from certain delegations to take immediate action.

44. Subsequently, the Committee rejected the proposal made by Germany and France by a roll call vote of 5 in favour to 10 against, with 3 abstentions.

In favour:

Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Romania

Against:

Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

India, Turkey, United States of America

45. The Committee then proceeded to vote on the proposal of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran not to grant consultative status to the organization.

General statement before the vote

46. A general statement before the vote was made by the representative of Cuba.

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

47. Statements in explanation of the vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Germany and France. The representative of Germany stated that he would vote against the proposal made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was of the view that the manner that this decision had been arrived at was discriminatory and violated the methods of work of the Committee, which should be based on the principles of trust, dialogue, fairness to all non-governmental organizations and transparency. He said that no single argument had been advanced that could deny that it fulfilled the criteria for consultative status as laid down in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. The organization was a democratic organization and its activities were relevant to the work of the Council. The charge of supporting paedophilia was a very serious one. If it was true, his Government would cease its support to the organization immediately. It was an erroneous charge, which served as a pretext to cloak the real issue, which was the human rights of persons whose sexual identity was different from that of the majority. Had the delegations that had brought forward this proposal had a serious interest in clarifying the question of alleged support of paedophilia, they would have given the organization a chance to answer to it by giving it additional time to reply to additional questions.

48. The representative of France also made a statement along the same lines, emphasizing and denouncing the discriminatory treatment that the organization had faced before the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations since 1993, in contradiction with the rules of Council resolution 1996/31.

49. The proposal made by the Islamic Republic of Iran was carried by a roll call vote of 10 in favour to 5 against, with 3 abstentions.

In favour:

Cameroon, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, United States of America, Zimbabwe

Against:

Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Romania

Abstaining:

Colombia, India, Turkey

Statements in explanation of vote after the vote

50. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Chile and Peru, who took the floor to explain that due process had not been followed.

Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians

51. At the same meeting, the Committee examined the application of the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians, a national organization, based in Denmark.

52. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, supported by Senegal, requested the Committee to take a decision on the organization at the meeting not to recommend consultative status to the organization. The delegations of Germany and France objected.

53. In his appeal to the Committee to continue the dialogue with the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians, the delegate of Germany stated that the proposed summary dismissal would be deeply discriminatory. In addition to the reasons given earlier in the debate during the consideration of the International Lesbian and Gay Association, he pointed out that the organization has "no history" with the Committee. It had applied for consultative status for the first time. A few questions had been posed to the organization, to which it had replied. He underlined that the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians was an organization whose activities were restricted to its host country, which was a member State of the European Union. He had no doubt that its activities were conducted strictly within the limits of national law.

54. Speaking, as an Observer State, the representative of Denmark expressed his surprise that so many Committee members stood ready to reject, without deliberation, the application for consultative status of the organization, which was fully supported by his Government. He believed that such action was a clear rejection of one of the most fundamental principles guiding the work of the United Nations, namely the freedom from discrimination on grounds of colour, religious belief or sexual orientation. He was of the view that those voting for the rejection of the application were taking the side with those who did not want to see all their citizens fully and freely participating in the development of their nations and of the international community as a whole.

55. The representative of Germany proposed an adjournment of debate under rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

56. Pursuant to rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the motion of adjournment of debate on the organization under consideration was put to a vote.

57. Statements in favour of the motion were made by the representatives of France and Germany. Statements were made against the motion by the representatives of Zimbabwe and the Sudan.

58. The Committee rejected the proposal made by Germany by a roll call vote of 5 in favour to 10 against, with 3 abstentions.

In favour:

Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Romania

Against:

Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

India, Turkey, United States of America

59. The Committee then proceeded to vote on the proposal of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to recommend not granting status to the organization.

60. The proposal made by the Islamic Republic of Iran was carried by a roll call vote of 10 in favour to 5 against with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Cameroon, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, United States of America, Zimbabwe

Against:

Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Romania

Abstaining:

Colombia, India, Turkey

Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

61. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of Germany on behalf of France and Germany. The representative of Germany said that his delegation would vote against the decision to reject the application of the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians for consultative status. Along with the International Lesbian and Gay Association, it deserved to be granted status. He also urged those members of the Committee that had rejected the application of the International Lesbian and Gay Association to consider that the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians had not previously applied for status with the Committee. It was active within only one country that was a member State of the European Union. He was of the view that denying this organization status would not only be a statement against the principle of non-discrimination, it would also be a statement against diversity. Those who had argued previously that principles they did not share were imposed on them would, by that decision, impose their principles on others.

62. His views were supported by the representative of France.

63. The proposal made by the Islamic Republic of Iran was carried by a roll call vote of 10 in favour to 5 against, with 3 abstentions.

In favour:

Cameroon, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, United States of America, Zimbabwe

Against:

Chile, France, Germany, Peru, Romania

Abstaining:

Colombia, Turkey, India

General statement after the votes on the International Lesbian and Gay Association and the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians

64. The representative of Germany stated that the Committee had taken two decisions that would haunt them for a long time. The Committee had committed an act of discrimination against two organizations whose sole purpose was to combat discrimination. These decisions reflected badly on a Committee that had been criticized in the past for introducing partisan political considerations into its work in a manner that was inappropriate for an administrative Committee of the Economic and Social Council. However, he was convinced that those who hoped to stifle the debate on human rights and sexual orientation had achieved the exact opposite. He was convinced that member States will live to see the day when it would be universally accepted that discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation was impermissible.

2. New requests for reclassification

65. At its 4th meeting, on 20 January, the Committee decided to recommend the reclassification of one organization, the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, from special to general, and of another organization, World ORT Union, from Roster to special (see chap. I, draft decision I, subparas. (b) and (c)).

66. The Committee decided not to reclassify the organization Armenian Relief Society, an organization on the Roster, following an intervention by the Ambassador of Turkey, Baki Ilkin, who reminded the Committee that it had previously decided not to recommend the reclassification of the organization at its resumed session of 2001, which was held from 14 to 25 January 2002. He stated that organizations seeking consultative status with the Economic and Social Council should abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and Council resolution 1996/31. He believed that the organization under review had not done so and had circulated documentation in which the organization had referred to parts of Turkey as "western or Turkish-occupied Armenia" and used language offensive to the Turkish people in its publications. It seemed that the basic mission of the organization was to question territorial integrity of a United Nations Member State and disseminate hatred towards the Turkish nation. The Ambassador also drew the attention of the Committee to some paragraphs in the "constitution and by-laws" of the non-governmental organization, recalled the reasons for the rejection of a previous application for reclassification and made a particular reference to the fact that the organization sponsored a youth camp, during which terrorism was praised through the re-enactment of a terrorist attack against the Turkish Embassy in Lisbon perpetrated by Armenian terrorists in 1983.

C. Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with other non-governmental organizations

67. At its 10th meeting, on 25 January, the Committee considered the procedures pertaining to mergers, namely organizations in consultative status merging with other organizations with or without status wishing to operate under a new name.

68. Having considered the updated application of the new organization, the Committee decided to recommend special consultative status to the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID), a merger of the Catholic Organization for Development, in special consultative status, and Mêmisa and Mensen in Nood, organizations not in status with the Council.

69. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the following organizations resulting from mergers of organizations not having consultative status with the Council, pending receipt on their updated applications:

(a) International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation-International Sports Organization for the Disabled (ISMWSF-ISOD), a merger of the International Sports Organization for the Disabled, in special consultative status, and the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation, not in status with the Council;

(b) International Association of Women Judges, a merger of the International Women Judges Foundation, in special consultative status, and the International Association of Women Judges, not in status with the Council;

(c) Center for Health and Population and Social Welfare, Futures Institute for Sustainable Development, a merger of the World Population Society, in special consultative status, and the Center for Health and Population and Social Welfare and the Futures Institute for Sustainable Development, not in status with the Council.

III. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special status with the Economic and Social Council

A. Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

70. The Committee considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 10th, 11th and 12th meetings, held on 25 to 27 January 2006. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and consultative status with the Council on their activities during the periods from 1994 to 1997, from 1995 to 1998 and from 1996 to 1999, which have been deferred from previous sessions of the Committee (E/C.2/2006/CRP.2). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 42 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (e)).

71. The Committee took note of the report of the Transnational Radical Party. It also heard a statement from the representative of Viet Nam regarding that organization.

72. The representative of Cuba dissociated himself from the consensus of the Committee on taking note of the report of the International Press Institute, since his delegation believed that the activities of this organization were not in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

73. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following eight organizations pending response from the organization to questions posed by the Committee:

Centrist Democrat International (1997-2000)

International Service for Human Rights (1999-2002)

Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos (2000-2003)

National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (2000-2003)

Mediterranean Women's Studies Center (1999-2002)

Women's World Summit Foundation (1999-2002)

Latin American Human Rights Association (1999-2002)

National Council of Women of Thailand (1999-2002)

74. On the quadrennial report of Centrist Democrat International, the delegate of Germany voiced strong concern over the protracted treatment of the report, which had been before the Committee since 2002. He explained that, by not taking note of the report, the Committee was not doing its job. The examination of quadrennial reports should be a routine exercise, not a form of harassment. The inability by the Committee to take note of the report due to the objections of one delegation, despite numerous questions posed and answers given over the years, was detrimental to the

Committee's reputation. The delegation of Germany also stated that the status category of this non-governmental organization could be upgraded to general status, in order to afford it equal treatment with other non-governmental organizations of a similar character.

75. On this issue the Cuban delegate pointed out his concerns regarding the activities of the organization because it had never really been clarified how an organization which was made up of political parties, in contravention of guidelines of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, preserves its independence from government when these parties become the ruling parties in power. He also expressed concern about the fact that the organization avoided answering whether it is really committed to preventing activities of individuals undertaken against the right of self-determination, including in cases when those individuals are funded by foreign Governments. The Cuban delegate tried to rule out some allegations of politically motivated activities against some member States.

B. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

76. The Committee considered agenda item 4 (b) at its 8th, 10th and 12th meetings, held on 24, 25 and 27 January. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General containing new quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2006/2, Add.1-7). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 42 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (d)).

77. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial report of the following two organizations pending responses to the questions posed by the Committee:

Qatar Charitable Society

International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples

IV. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

78. The Committee was informed that the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section will give a report on the various activities of the Section during 2004-2005 at the 2005 resumed session of the Committee.

V. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

A. Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group

79. At its 10th meeting, on 25 January 2006, Octavian Stamate (Romania), coordinator of the informal working group of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, reported before the Committee on the activities of the working group. The working group reviewed the items on its agenda as follows.

Information technology

80. The working group listened to a presentation on an Internet-based tool kit for improving interactions with civil society organizations and improving mechanisms to address the needs of non-governmental organizations with status. The presentation included a PowerPoint display of draft diagrams for the new website and presented more efficient working methods for the receipt of correspondence and information from civil society organizations.

Quadrennial reports

81. Mechanisms to address the failure of organizations to submit their quadrennial reports were also considered. Members expressed their concern on the issue, but felt that any solutions would require more information.

82. In considering the submission of quadrennial reports, concern was raised regarding the role of the Internet and the proposed website for solving the problem of failure to submit reports. A number of member States felt that an Internet-based solution would not be effective, particularly in the case of countries that did not have access to the appropriate technology. It was decided that the issue would be revisited at future meetings.

83. The representative of Cuba expressed concern regarding organizations that had been informed by the Secretariat of their responsibility to provide a quadrennial report on their activities and had not done so for many years. He was of the view that the Committee needed to take a decision on this issue and invited the working group to discuss this issue at future meetings of the working group.

84. The delegate of Germany reminded the Committee that the submission of quadrennial reports should not be perceived by non-governmental organizations as a punitive exercise and should not be used as instruments to settle scores. He also pointed out that Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 did not stipulate that non-governmental organizations on the Roster had to submit a report on their activities. One should keep in mind that organizations with scarce resources might not have the possibilities to report to a survey. He was of the view that surveys on non-governmental organizations with Roster status should not be done on a continuous basis.

B. Other related matters

Issuance of documentation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

85. At its 12th meeting, on 27 January, the Committee took note of a report of the Secretary-General on the issuance of documentation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/C.2/2006/4).

86. The Deputy Chief of the Non-Governmental Organization Section, responding to questions posed by members of the Committee regarding the accreditation process, explained that the delay in the availability of documentation stemmed from the fact that the Non-Governmental Organization Section received a large number of applications from organizations from developing countries (approximately 35 per cent) that do not always have the appropriate technology to provide the information requested in a timely manner. In addition, this information has to be submitted to the Secretariat in English or French, the working languages of the United Nations, languages that were not always spoken by the representatives that filled out the applications submitted. Consequently, the Non-Governmental Organization Section is involved in a heavy correspondence with such organizations and goes to great lengths to make every allowance for the special circumstances of organizations constrained by poor communications infrastructure and/or linguistic difficulties in order to clarify the information provided. This situation might, at times, have entailed delays that reflected on the issuance of some of the documents that had to be made available six weeks before the opening of the session of the Committee. She pointed out that the Secretariat had to submit these documents at least four weeks before issuance to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and a total of 10 weeks before the Committee's session. It was obvious that little time was left between the end of the regular January session and the beginning of the resumed session of the Committee to complete and submit the documents for the May session within the required deadlines.

87. The Secretariat intends to abide by Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/240 and therefore anticipates that those applications that do not meet the 10 weeks deadline for the May session will be submitted to future sessions of the Committee.

VI. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295

88. At its 6th meeting, on 23 January 2006, the Committee considered the requests for consultative status of organizations contained in documents E/C.2/2006/R.4 and E/2006/CRP.3. In its deliberations, the Committee proceeded in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295, whereby the Council decided that the non-governmental organizations referred to in its decision 1993/220 that wished to expand their participation in other fields of the Council would be considered by the Committee, and that the Committee would do so, as expeditiously as possible, under an item of its agenda, following the rules and provisions stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

89. The Committee decided to grant Roster status to one organization, International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems, and special status to the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the Eco-Accord Center for Environment and Sustainable Development.

VII. Consideration of special reports

Islamic African Relief Agency

90. At its 9th meeting, on 25 January 2006, the Committee had before it a request by the representative of the United States for withdrawal of the special consultative status of the Islamic African Relief Agency, an international organization based in the Sudan.

91. He stated that the organization had been placed on the list of terrorist organizations by the United States Department of the Treasury for its involvement in terrorist financing, specifically of Al-Qaida and Hamas. The Agency is formerly affiliated with Maktab Al-Khidamat, which was co-founded and financed by Osama bin Laden and is the precursor organization of Al-Qaida.

92. He also underlined that several associates of the organization appeared on the consolidated list maintained by the Sanctions Committee of the Security Council.

93. The Ambassador of the Sudan, M. Elfatih Mohamed Ahmed Erwa, was of the view that a decision to suspend the organization at this stage was premature. Time should be given to the organization to respond to the accusations of the United States.

94. The Committee decided to contact the organization and awaits its response before taking a decision on the request before the end of the Committee's session.

95. At its 12th meeting, on 27 January, the representative of the United States informed the Committee that his delegation had sent representatives to the actual physical address given by the organization in the Sudan only to find that it had apparently moved. Wondering whether the Committee had to wait years for a reply, he emphasized that it was not the responsibility of his delegation or any other delegation to search the globe to determine where the organization had moved or why it had not yet responded to the questions posed by the Committee.

96. The representative of Cuba stated that he would have preferred, from a procedural point of view, to give more time to the organization to respond or to give the Committee the opportunity to review a minimum amount of information coming from the organization. However, he would not object to the information provided by the United States.

97. The representative of Germany believed that the work of the Committee could not be undercut by any organization that simply did not reply to the questions posed by the Committee.

98. The Committee decided to withdraw the consultative status of the organization.

Reinstatement of the organization Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"

99. At its 2003 regular session, the representative of the United States had lodged a complaint before the Committee against the organization Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", an international organization with special consultative status with the Council. At the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, two representatives of this organization had rushed towards the United States delegation carrying a large cylindrical object and chanting anti-American slogans

(see E/2004/32). A report on the incident was requested from the organization by the Committee to be submitted to the following session of the Committee. At the 2004 regular session of the Committee, after the United States declared that the response provided by the organization was unsatisfactory, the Committee, in a decision adopted by vote, suspended the consultative status of the organization for one year.

100. At its 10th meeting, on 25 January, the Committee had before it a letter concerning the reinstatement for consultative status of the organization. The Chairperson of the Committee, Beatriz Patti Londoño (Colombia), made the following statement:

> "The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations takes note and acknowledges the fact that the one year of suspension of the organization Indian Movement 'Tupaj Amaru' came to an end on 23 July 2005".

101. The delegate of France interpreted the Chairperson's statement as a confirmation of the automatic reinstatement of the status of an organization after the expiration of the suspension.

VIII. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

102. Consideration of this item was postponed to the resumed session of the Committee in order to cover one year of reporting of the Non-Governmental Organization Section on its outreach programme.

IX. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

103. The Committee held its 2006 regular session from 19 to 27 January. The Committee held 12 meetings.

B. Attendance

104. The session was attended by the 19 members of the Committee.

105. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, observers for two non-member States, representatives of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and observers for an intergovernmental and a non-governmental organization also attended. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

106. At its 2006 session, the Committee heard seven representatives of non-governmental organizations who were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

C. Election of officers

107. At its 1st meeting, on 19 January, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:

Beatriz Londoño (Colombia)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Octavian Stamate (Romania)
Bilal Hayee (Pakistan)
Hasan Hamid Hasan (Sudan)
Serhat Aksen (Turkey)

108. At the 9th meeting, on 25 January, the Committee also elected Octavian Stamate (Romania), by acclamation, to serve as Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

109. At its 1st meeting, on 19 January, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its 2006 session (E/C.2/2006/1).

110. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work, as orally revised.

E. Documentation

111. The list of documents before the committee at its 2006 session is contained in annex II to the present report.

X. Adoption of the report of the Committee at its 2006 session

112. At its 12th meeting, on 27 January, the Committee adopted the draft report as contained in document E/C.2/2006/L.2 and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report, in consultation with the members of the Committee, as appropriate.

Annex I

List of participants

Members

Cameroon	Cathérine Mahouve Same, Naomi Akono
Chile	Christian Rehren, Carla Serazzi, Julio Torres
China	Xie Bohua, Li Xiaomei, Niu Jianrong
Colombia	Maria Angela Holguin Cuéllar, Patti Londoño Jaramillo, Martha Lucia Moreno Fajardo
Côte d'Ivoire	Guillaume Bailley-Niagri
Cuba	Rodrigo Malmierca Diaz, Rodolfo Reyes Rodriguez, Ileana Nuñez Mordoche, Luis Amoros Nuñez
France	Philippe Bertoux, François Vandeville, Julien Vaillant
Germany	Martin Thümmel
India	Nirupam Sen, Ajai Malhotra, B. N. Reddy
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi, Mohsen Emade, Paimaneh Hastaie
Pakistan	Munir Akram, Alzaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Bilal Hayee
Peru	Romy Tincopa
Romania	Octavian Stamate
Russian Federation	Vladimir Vertogradov, Andrey Nikiforov, Vladimir Zheglov, Boris Chernenko
Senegal	Leysa Faye
Sudan	Ilham I. Ahmed, Hassan Hamid Hassan
Turkey	Serhat Aksen
United States of America	Mariano Ceinos-Cox, Peggy Kerry, Jennifer McCann, Joseph Bracken
Zimbabwe	Meshack Kitchen

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Namibia, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Viet Nam

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See and Palestine

Specialized agencies

World Intellectual Property Organization, World Tourism Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental organization

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Annex II

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/C.2/2006/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/C.2/2006/2 and Add.1-7	4 (b)	Quadrennial reports
E/C.2/2006/3	8	Note by the Secretary-General: special reports
E/C.2/2006/4	6 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2005/240
E/C.2/2006/L.2	11	Draft report
E/C.2/2006/CRP.1	3 (a)	Deferred applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2006/CRP.2	4 (a) and (b)	Quadrennial reports
E/C.2/2006/CRP.3	7	Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295
E/C.2/2006/CRP.4	6 (a)	Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group
E/C.2/2006/CRP.5	7	Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295
E/C.2/2006/R.2 and Add.1-13 and 15-22	3 (b)	New applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2006/R.3 and Add.1	3 (b)	New applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2006/R.2/Add.14	3 (c)	Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with other non-governmental organizations
E/C.2/2006/R.5	7	Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 2001/295